

**DATE:** March 5, 2021

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**SUBJECT:** Friday Update

All,

Its unbelievable that we are already in March, headed to spring and almost on the crest of summer.

Here is the City Council Agenda and summary of the items:

- Pension Funding Policy- a policy of the City establishing norms and benchmarks for how we will deal with the overall funding of pension obligations, commitments and establishment of how we manage these obligations. This will be a critical tool as we represent the City of Auburn with rating agencies for the upcoming issuance of pension obligation bonds. The rating agencies want cities with a disciplined/policy approach to financial administration. Structure is important here.
- **Accessory Dwelling Units:** A review of the City's ADU program, the availability of stock plans and the process for property owners to add these units to their homes.
- **Fire Department Year End Report:** This report is so good, we brought it from the previous meeting. This will be an overview of 2020 with discussions on core services, fire prevention and advancement of the overall mission of Auburn Fire.
- **Warrants from February, 2021:** A chance to look at the bills for last month.
- **Covid 19 Emergency Declaration:** Extending the current declaration into May. This will enable many of the emergency declarations to remain in place with benefit our local business community.
- **Covid 19 Emergency Restaurant Support Program:** this enables outdoor dining, streamlines the process for shelters and continues the over the counter program for Downtown and Old Town.
- **On Call Engineering Services Agreement-** this is the first of many on call agreements which will build the resource list of firms we can use in the streamlining of projects for development. Ponticello will assist with development review, subdivision improvement agreements and brings a particular expertise in grants and regulatory compliance.
- **Professional Services Agreement Human Resources:** This will add expertise in both Human Resources and Payroll to insure the City is maintaining compliance with the myriad of laws and regulations.
- **Appointment of April Maynard to the Economic Development Commission:** April will represent the Downtown Business Association.

- **City Council Appointments:** Councilmembers Berlant and Dowdin Calvillo will be switching slots with Berlant moving to the liaison with the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and Dowdin Calvillo as the alternate on SACOG.

March and April are super busy months for City meetings, especially on budget:

- Saturday, March 20- City Council Goal Setting Workshop
- Monday, March 29 and Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>- Public Input Workshops
- Monday, April 12 City Council Budget Workshop
- Monday, April 26 City Council Budget Workshop
- June 14 Capital Projects Workshop and Operating Budget Adoption

This week being the City Manager:

- The City's Systems Committee met to receive presentations on recommended systems throughout the organization. Some really good results on Building Permitting, Project Management and GIS. Departments not reporting were financial management, human resources, transit and the upgrades to a cloud based Microsoft platform. Generally, a positive meeting with those not reporting being rescheduled to a later date. Overall, good management from the team leaders.
- Lot's of Covid related stuff. Look for Placer County to enter the "Red Zone" on Tuesday, March 9. This means indoor dining at 25% capacity.
- We are working on moving forward with compliance auditing for certain financial systems. This will kick off next week.
- Staff met with property owner representatives related to the Baltimore Ravine Specific Plan. Lots going on and folks are looking at their options.
- Staff is working on many options and topics related to the Old Landfill. Ultimately, this is going to be a high dollar item to resolve State regulations and permitting. This is one of the least fun projects on my menu!
- Staff met with representatives of Jacobs Engineering who operates our Wastewater Treatment Facility. A very basic meeting, not a lot of depth and lots of questions following. My sense is that this area will become of more interest to the City Manager in the near future.
- Staff is working on a legislative approach to reopening organized endurance events. On Monday, a meeting with aides to key legislators will happen to see how we can work with the State to get them to allow healthy outdoor activities to resume!

Finally, last Monday I had a meeting with the key organizers of the Western States Endurance Run. We discussed coordination and logistics between the City and the event, various aspects of promotion, public safety and City participation. It was a highlight and something I shared with my daughter Emily who is an ultra runner and an aspiring future WSER competitor.



Without question, those who organize the Western States Endurance Run bring that “pioneer spirit” which makes Auburn the wonderful place it is. The WSER is the top endurance event in the world and brings a cache second to none! The focus on those organizing is based on making it a “special event” for the competitors, with events and a reception which represents a total experience for those athletes and their support crews who have reached the pinnacle of endurance sports. They talked about bringing the international athletes into the community with host families, giving a shared experience with locals and the top athletes from across the globe. In the Covid Era, they have a high emphasis on health and safety, with a high degree of responsibility to balance the event and maintaining public health. The organizers also have a high emphasis on the representation of Auburn, wanting us to look good on this world stage.

We are “Auburn, California” a destination and goal for people from throughout the world. In the pantheon of sports, the genesis is often Greece and the tragic story of the marathon. People from all over the world accrue to run a route of the ages with dreams and visualizations of attaining their greatest accomplishment, breathing the air and crossing the ultimate finish line. Each year, there are 369 people who start in Olympic Valley with one goal and that is to reach Robie Point, run down Finley St and on to the Placer High School track to get a belt buckle with a cougar on it. For many, they will take their greatest physical achievement of their lifetime as being, reaching Auburn, California!

As the City of Auburn, I tell folks we are in the “business of where people live!” We also carry the mantle of being the dream destination for the most elite athletes accomplishing their greatest fete! It’s pretty damn awesome and something we can all take pride in saying we are a part of!

Have a nice weekend.

John

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